

5th Ward School Naming Committee
Minutes
Fleetwood Jourdain - Arts & Crafts Room
1655 Foster St
Evanston, IL 60201
Friday, June 28, 2024

Meeting Called to order at 11:41am

Roll Call:

Present: Kenneth Cherry, JoAnn Avery, Charlise Berkel, Tracy Hubbard

Also Present: Kirby Callam

Public Comment:

A sign-up sheet for public comment was made available to the public and a call for public comment was made. No individual signed up nor was anyone present for public comment.

Process for Naming the new K-5 school to be built in the 5th Ward:

Kirby Callam reviewed the process to name a new school following *D65 Board Policy 4:150 Naming Buildings and Facilities* as well as District intent to avoid using individual names for school buildings while seeking school names that inspire and connect. The process to incorporate community input for the school name was reviewed and included two community surveys as well as two school name review sessions with the Foster Senior Club and Ms. JoAnn's class of over fifty 3rd - 5th grade students at Family Focus.

The second survey was sent out in May 2024 to all District 65 families who reside in the Fifth Ward and all Bessie Rhodes families, with 189 responding. Survey results and direct input from the Foster Senior Club and Ms. JoAnne's students overwhelmingly voted for **Foster** as the name for the school.

The community survey conducted in May 2024 and the over 50 students from Ms. JoAnne's class also unanimously voted for the school mascot to be the Phoenix.

Nomination for School Name:

It was moved by Cherry and seconded by Avery that:

The School Name Committee appointed by the District 65 school board president so nominates Foster School to be the school name for the new school to be built at 1600 Simpson Avenue.

Ayes: Cherry, Berkel, Avery, Hubbard

Nays:

Abstain:

Motion passed 4-0

Honoring Dr. Bessie Rhodes

Tracy Hubbard noted the importance of keeping the legacy of Dr. Bessie Rhodes alive by honoring her in the new school as she was a foundational leader in Evanston and District 65, helping to build the former Timber Ridge and current Dr. Bessie Rhodes school into an important and successful school. She was also a well-respected long-time teacher in District 65, which included time in the former Foster School building.

Adjournment

With no further business the School naming Committee adjourned at 12:10pm